

## **Harpswell Conservation Commission**

Minutes for March 17, 2009 Workshop

Municipal Office Building, 263 Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine 04079

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Maryann Nahf at 3:10 PM.

Members present: Maryann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Tony Barrett, Anne Perry, Burr Taylor, Don Jones

Also present: Carol Tukey (Town Planner), Marcel Polak (MEACC Consultant), briefly: Administrative Assistant Kristi Eiane, Selectman Jim Henderson.

Absent: Ann Nemrow

**Minutes** of the March 10, 2009 meeting were approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Open Space Plan.** Article 4 passed at the Town Meeting on Saturday. Successful strategies were discussed, primarily reaching out to landowners. Marcel outlined a new conservation land funding source through TPL from an anonymous donor. He feels that Harpswell is as ready as any town to receive one of these grants. There is a move to include appropriations as well as bonded funds to match the grant funds. TPL grant starts now but the Town of Harpswell will not be in a position to apply for bond funds before 2010 or 2011. The earliest date for an appropriation for land purchase would be at the next town meeting in March 2010. The donor is aware of the long turnaround time to fund municipal projects. Priority locations were discussed.
2. **Open Space Plan Implementation.** Deirdre prepared a list of strategies from the Plan with associated activities and target audiences. Priority is "Voluntary Efforts for Open Space", HCC needs to develop a list of topics to pursue in brochures, town website, TV, etc. Burr is working on a webpage at his [www.harpswellinfo.net](http://www.harpswellinfo.net). Could HCC explore e-mail as a tool to keep in touch with focus area landowners? Carol mentioned how landowners appreciated our letters to keep them informed. A timetable of tasks is needed (Deirdre) and HCC members should choose a portion of the implementation strategies to work on. Don volunteered to be the coordinator of the vernal pools work, Anne expressed interest in being involved in vernal pools. Mary Ann indicated interest in conservation education. Tony indicated interest in working on ordinances, especially those related to open space in subdivisions. Ann Nemrow may be interested in coordinating the work on scenic views. Deirdre is willing to coordinate the work of seeking funding for land acquisition. Deirdre and Carol will write a report for Wharton Foundation as requested with a copy of the Plan – and consider applying for Wharton funds for vernal pools aerial mapping.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Composters.** Don completed the order form, to be sent in before deadline. Maryann will update the website order form.
2. **Adopt-a-Road.** Possible new sign-up is a Harpswell Brownie troop. Fred Cantu has been alerted about the Adopters permit to dispose of roadside items free. Stacy Welner asked Anne to write an Anchor article for the Town-wide clean-up day coordinated by Dave Chipman, Alison Hawkes, Dan Boland, and Judy Arndt. The date is set for April 18 with refreshments at Merriconeag Grange. Adopt-a-Roaders are invited to participate, and Anne will send them a note to that effect, confirming their continued interest, and thanking them for their efforts. Commission will clean-up our portion of Mountain Rd after 4/14 meeting.
3. **Vernal Pools.** On site training is set for April 19, 3:30-5:30, at the Yarmouth Town Office. All those wishing to be part of the Harpswell VP Survey should attend. Tulle Frazer invited the Commission to join them at the 'HHLT site for 3 visits. Maryann will let her know of our interest. For the on-ground Harpswell survey, several sites were mentioned: Austin-Carey (TB), Burr's Taylor's property, Long

Reach Preserve (Tulle). Listen for wood frogs' "bark" – the earliest sign of a vernal pool. A mid April survey date to be set dependent upon the critters.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Adjourned 5:04 PM  
Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Perry, Secretary.

**April meetings:** 4/14 (workshop) and 4/21 (regular), 3:00 pm.  
April 18 – Roadside Clean-up